



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Kay Granger
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa L DeLauro
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Granger and Ranking Member DeLauro:

I am requesting \$1,480,000 in funding for the **Integrated Research and Extension Program for a Sustainable and Profitable Urban Agriculture** project in fiscal year 2024. The entity to receive funding for this project is **Texas A&M University-Commerce at Dallas** located at 8750 N. Central Expy Suite 1900 Box 30; Dallas, TX 75231.

The funding would be used for equipment for plant production, materials and supplies like soil, fertilizers, seeds and more, travel for site visits, salaries for staff and students managing the program, and the production of publications.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because the project is seeking to address food insecurity in the most vulnerable communities, such as large metropolitan cities with increasing urban populations, including Dallas, where there is a noticeable socioeconomic disparity characterized by the prevalence of “food deserts”. These are areas with difficult access to fresh and healthy fruit and vegetables, making it more challenging to ensure food security across these communities. In the face of these major challenges, there is a growing interest in developing a vibrant urban agriculture across small and large cities in the U.S., including Dallas and surrounding cities.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by the Soil Conservation and Allotment Domestic Act of 1935, 16 U.S. Code sections 590a-590d and 590f-g.

I certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'C. Allred', written over a white background.

Colin Allred
Member of Congress